

## CLAIMS

### **What is claimed is:**

1. A cooking appliance, comprising:
  - a pot having an opening;
  - 5 a handle hingedly attached to the pot, the handle having a lowered position and a raised position;
  - a lid configured to fit on the pot to cover the opening;
  - a gasket, wherein the gasket is positioned between the pot and the lid when the lid is placed on the pot; and
- 10 a latch hingedly attached to the pot, wherein:
  - the latch has a locked position and an unlocked position;
  - when the handle is in the lowered position, the latch is in the unlocked position and the lid is removable from the pot; and
  - when the handle is in the raised position, the latch is in the locked position
- 15 and the lid is sealed onto the pot.
2. The cooking appliance of claim 1, wherein the handle engages the latch when the handle is in the raised position.
3. The cooking appliance of claim 1, wherein the handle has two ends and each of the ends is hingedly attached to the pot near the opening.
- 20 4. The cooking appliance of claim 1, wherein the pot comprises an electric heating unit.
5. The cooking appliance of claim 4, further comprising:
  - an electric cord to supply the heat to the pot; and
  - a cavity in the pot to store the electric cord.
- 25 6. The cooking appliance of claim 1, wherein the gasket is attached to the lid.

7. The cooking appliance of claim 1, wherein the gasket is attached to the pot.
  
8. The cooking appliance of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a second handle hingedly attached to the pot, the second handle having a lowered position and a raised position; and
  - a second latch hingedly attached to the pot, wherein:
    - the second latch has a locked position and an unlocked position;
    - when the second handle is in the lowered position, the second latch is in the unlocked position and the lid is removable from the pot; and
    - when the second handle is in the raised position, the second latch is in the locked position and the lid is sealed onto the pot.

9. A sealing apparatus for a slow cooker having a heating vessel with an opening and a lid configured to fit on the heating vessel to cover the opening, the sealing apparatus comprising:

- 5 a handle hingedly attached to the heating vessel, the handle having a lowered position and a raised position;
- 10 a gasket, wherein the gasket is positioned between the heating vessel and the lid when the lid is placed on the heating vessel; and
- 15 a latch hingedly attached to the heating vessel, wherein:
  - the latch has a locked position and an unlocked position;
  - when the handle is in the lowered position, the latch is in the unlocked position and the lid is removable from the heating vessel; and
  - when the handle is in the raised position, the latch is in the locked position and the lid is sealed onto the heating vessel.

10. The sealing apparatus of claim 9, wherein the handle engages the latch  
15 when the handle is in the raised position.

11. The sealing apparatus of claim 9, wherein the handle has two ends and each of the ends is hingedly attached to the heating vessel near the opening.

12. The sealing apparatus of claim 9, wherein the gasket is attached to the lid.

13. The sealing apparatus of claim 9, wherein the gasket is attached to the  
20 heating vessel.

14. The sealing apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:

a second handle hingedly attached to the heating vessel, the second handle having a lowered position and a raised position; and

a second latch hingedly attached to the heating vessel, wherein:

5 the second latch has a locked position and an unlocked position;

when the second handle is in the lowered position, the second latch is in the unlocked position and the lid is removable from the heating vessel; and

when the second handle is in the raised position, the second latch is in the locked position and the lid is sealed onto the heating vessel.

15. A method for sealing a lid onto a pot, comprising the steps of:  
placing a gasket between the lid and the pot;  
raising a handle hingedly attached to the pot; and  
engaging a latch attached to the pot, wherein the latch seals the lid onto the pot.

5 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:  
raising a second handle hingedly attached to the pot; and  
engaging a second latch attached to the pot.